

DOINGS OF THE VAN LOONS

It Didn't Work as Van-der Wurst Wanted It to

By F. LEIPZIGER



CALUMET NEWS SPORTS

NICKNAMES OF BALL PLAYERS

Abbreviation Leads to New Cognomens for Stars of Game

As a rule the name by which a baseball player is known to the box score has belonged to him from the day of his birth, but the handles prefixed to the surnames of diamond experts often bear not the slightest relationship to the ones by which they were christened.

Nearly everybody knows that the famed manager of the present world's champions was labeled Cornelius McGillicuddy until he broke into baseball and that his tag was shortened to Connie Mack by players and writers in sheer desperation at the thought of using so much breath and space every time he was spoken of or written of.

Then there was Ossie Schreck, the former Athletic catcher, whose full name was Ossie Schreckenschlager, and the White Sox title is something like Blackwell. For years Gene DeMontreville, the veteran shortstop, was known by the first two syllables of his name.

In such cases the desire for brevity was the sole cause for the changed nomenclature. The Cubs have a catcher in Dini Cottoer who started his professional career as "Carter," because he was desirous of retaining his amateur status in Manhattan College while playing summer baseball. He appears on the official records of the National Commission as "Carter."

Then there's Eddie Collins. A similar case is that of Eddie Collins of the world's champions, who broke into baseball as Sullivan, and went to the Mackmen under that name.

A more unusual case is that of Warren, the Yankee pitcher. He is a genuine Celt by the name of Fleming, but he posed as an Indian while pitching with the Nebraska Indians some years ago, and took the name under which he gained his reputation to help sustain the illusion. Sam Strang's right name was Nickless, but on account of parental objections to professional baseball, he used his middle name for identification purposes on the diamond.

Only in exceptional cases like those already named do ball players adopt stage names. No one would accuse Anson Strunk, for instance, of having assumed that label unless it was fostered on him by circumstances over which he had no control.

When Ten Million broke in the big circuit last winter for a spring tryout everybody thought that was a phony, but it was the genuine brand in his case.

When it comes to nicknames, however, there are scores of men in the game today who have come to be known to every rooter by something which is nowhere near their real names.

What is Wagner's Real Name? How many fans can tell offhand what Honus Wagner signs at the bottom of his contract? He has been known as Honus or Hans so long that everyone else has forgotten.

Jack is a long way from Garland, by which Jake Stahl was christened. Leftfield, the pitcher who has been added to the Cub staff, always is Lefty, but his initials are A. P. He acquired the nickname because he pitches that way, and there are others equally easy to trace, like Jack Spratt.

Some names multiply themselves indefinitely as the game grows. No one knows how many Rubes and Cys there are in organized baseball. If there is any young in the game who is not called Cy, he is far down in the bush. And of all the Rubes in the diamond's history only one did not acquire it because he was not city brose. The exception is Rube Oldring, whose real name is Reuben.

EXPECT DEFIANCE TO BE LAUNCHED MIDDLE OF MAY

Bath, Me., Mar. 2.—The work of setting up the frames for the racing yacht Defiance, was commenced at the Bath Iron-works today.

It will require several days and it is probable that the placing of the mahogany planking will not begin much before the middle of the month. The spars, which will arrive about April 1, will be finished and ready for stepping as soon as received.

Designer Owen stated today that the Defiance would be launched as near the middle of May as possible.

SULLIVAN VS. LANKY BOB.

Famous Old Ring Stars Engage in Wordy Contest.

New York, Mar. 2.—"Old John L." Sullivan and "Old Bob" Fitzsimmons are so industriously engaged in calling each other names these days that the humane society has cleared "deeds for action," figuring that the next thing that might take place is a fist fight between the two.

John L., who is appearing here in vaudeville, started things yesterday by referring to "Poor Old Fitz," and asserting that the boxing commission did right when it barred Fitz from fighting again. John L. intimated that Fitz was so much of a "has been" that his relatives might just as well prepare for a funeral if Bob ever was matched with a real present day fighter.

Fitz heard about Sullivan's remarks today and went into a rage. "I'd like to know what right that guttered old to say I'm a 'has been,'" snarled Bob. "Why, he's nothing but a bloomin' old laxy farmer—that's what's in it." "E's dead sore at me because I licked him and he's not licked me—that's what's in it. That old duffer hasn't had a punch in 'im for fifteen years or more. 'T'd better keep still, 'ad or—?" Fitz finished the sentence by doubling up his fists.

"Sullivan, he's like a lot of other duffers," added Fitz. "E thinks he can't hit because he's a bit old, but if he get into the ring with some of them Marathons wots, grabbin' the public's money, now under the false pretenses of bein' fighters, he'll show 'em 'at that Bob Fitzsimmons still 'as the wallop."

NO INSIGNIA FOR CO-EDS.

U. of M. Board of Control Decides Adversely on Petition.

Ann Arbor, Mich., Mar. 2.—Athletically-inclined University of Michigan co-eds lost out in their attempt to get permission to wear some sort of official "M" insignia as a badge of their prowess, when the board of directors of the athletic association refused to grant their petition, asking for the desired permission, and gave as a reason for this action that the women participated in no intercollegiate competition and therefore should not be entitled to wear the letter of their university in any form.

While the co-eds did not ask for the use of the block "M," awarded to the varsity athletes of the Wolverine teams, the directors decided that to award them any kind of an "M" would be to encroach upon the distinctive honors attached to the wearing of the insignia. The co-eds base their claims on the present system at Wisconsin University where women are given a form of the "W" for excellence in some lines of athletic activities, in spite of the fact that they do not take part in any kind of intercollegiate competition.

As a result of the directors' action the Michigan co-ed husky will have to satisfy herself with her old badges of honor and to give up her fond hopes of boasting a great, big "M" on her athletic sweater.

HARVARD FOOTBALL STAR IS DECLARED INELIGIBLE

Cambridge, Mass., Mar. 2.—J. A. Gilman, Jr., of Honolulu, tackle on Harvard's championship football team last year, will not be able to play with this year's eleven, it was learned today. Gilman failed to meet requirements in his mid-year's examinations and has been forced to leave college. He will be allowed to return in September but must participate in athletics until he regains his place in scholarship.

ONE OF GAME'S NEW NOTABLES

President James A. Gilmore of Federals 38 Years Old Today

Chicago, Ill., March 2.—James A. Gilmore, whose activities as president of the new Federal baseball league has caused the old league magnates to sit up and take notice, celebrated his thirty-eighth birthday anniversary today. Within the past few months Mr. Gilmore has become one of the most discussed men in the baseball world. Before that time he was unknown outside of his own circles of business associates and acquaintances.

Portsmouth, O., has the distinction of being the birthplace of the Federal league president. When he was an infant, however, his family removed to St. Louis and then to Chicago. This was in 1882, when the future baseball magnate was 6 years old. He received his education in the Chicago public schools and on completing his course in the grammar school went to work as a messenger boy for \$3 a week.

Later he secured a job with a coal company and held it until the beginning of the war with Spain, when he enlisted and went with his regiment to Santiago. Later he went to the Philippines and it was nearly two years before he returned to Chicago. After the completion of his military service Mr. Gilmore returned to Chicago and to his job as a coal salesman. A decade ago found him still plugging along at a modest salary. Then the qualities that have made him known as the fighting president of the Federal league began to assert themselves. He quit the coal business and engaged in manufacturing on borrowed capital. He was successful from the start and within a few years he accumulated a comfortable fortune. When the Federal league club in Chicago was close to the rocks last fall Gilmore and few friends advanced \$12,000 to keep the club from going under. This gave Gilmore his first insight into baseball club management. Though he lost his money he liked the experience and when the league presidency was offered him last fall he readily accepted and with characteristic enthusiasm started out to make the new venture a success.

EVERS MAY LOSE BONUS.

Former Cub Star Fears Joker in the Agreement.

Chicago, Mar. 2.—That he may not get the \$20,000 bonus offered him by the National league in New York city to sign with the Boston Braves was the statement made by Johnny Evers, former manager of the Cubs, on his return to Chicago last night. The former Cub leader said that he had a suspicion that all was not right in the deal and that there was a hitch developed lately that will beat him out of the money.

Evers said that his contract with Boston, calling for \$10,000 a year, seemed perfectly legal, but the agreement between Charles W. Murphy and James Gaffney whereby Evers was to go to Boston in exchange for Pitcher Perdue and Infielder Sweeney may include the joker that will beat him out of the money. Johnny infers that if the Boston men are not turned over to the Cubs the bonus money will not be forthcoming, and he adds that it is his opinion that the Cubs will not get the services of either player.

FAMOUS PRINCETON STAR.

Alex Moffat, Great Drop Kicker, Victim of Pneumonia.

New York, March 2.—Announcement is made today of the recent death of Alexander Moffat, famous as a Princeton university football player of the early eighties and closely identified with the game as advisory coach, member of rules committee and official ever since. He was 31 years old. Death was due to pneumonia.

Moffat was one of the greatest drop-kickers the game ever produced. He was able to score from long range with either foot, and his record of four field goals in one game against Harvard ranks with the best recent performances of Charlie Brickley. He was a member of the Princeton football teams of 1882, 1883 and 1884, playing fullback.

Mr. Moffat was a civil engineer.

MAKES FINAL APPEAL FOR OLYMPIC FUND

London, Mar. 2.—The British Olympic committee has decided to make another appeal for a fund of \$200,000 to provide effective representation at the Olympic games to be held in Berlin in 1916.

Recently the duke of Westminster's Olympic fund committee, which aspired to raise \$500,000 through a national subscription, for the same purpose, resigned, having failed of its purpose.

CLAIM THE RESERVE CLAUSE WILL NOT HOLD IN COURT

New York, Mar. 2.—The baseball reserve clause is not valid and would be knocked out in court if it ever got there, according to an opinion given in an article which appears in the current issue of Law Notes, a well-known legal publication.

The article declares that the courts will uphold any contract "that is fair and valid" but that any contract that contains the reserve clause would stand a good chance of being kicked out of court.

"The true reserve clause," says the article, "was held unenforceable in equity in the case of the Metropolitan Exhibition company vs. John M. Ward, and also in the case of the Metropolitan Exhibition company vs. Player Ewing, on the grounds of indefiniteness and unfairness or want of mutuality."

KEYSTONE SACK PROBLEM.

Practically All Major League Teams To Experiment.

St. Louis, Mar. 2.—Second base, the keystone, is the storm center on every team but one in the National league; this season, and the success of a few teams will depend largely upon the manager's ability to man this station with a star.

Larry Doyle, of the Giants, and Jimmie Viox, of the Pirates, are the only performers in the motherly old league who have anything like a secure hold on the job. The situation in other cities might be epitomized thusly:

St. Louis—Huggins is nearing the age limit; may give way to Art Butler.

Philadelphia—Otto Knebe has jumped to Feds; Bobby Byrne and Frankie Truesdale, now of Buffalo being considered for the berth.

Chicago—Jawn Evers, timed by Murphy; no successor appointed for the Keystone Kingship. Heine Zim, according to Hank O'Day, will draw the assignment.

Cincinnati—Dick Egan vacates to report to Brooklyn, via Tinker trade. Job still open.

Boston—Evers threatens to crowd Bill Sweeney off; Sweeney may go to first base.

Brooklyn—Dick Egan is after Cutshaw's job. With Tinker missing, though, Egan may reform into a shortstop.

New York—The country's safe, while Lawrence Doyle flies.

No other position presents so many problems for the managers next season.

NOW AUSTRALIAN CHAMPS.

American Track Team Wins New Honors. It is Learned.

San Francisco, Cal., Mar. 2.—The championship of Australia was won by the A. American track and field team at Melbourne, Jan. 24, according to mail advices just received, from the antipodes. The silver shield awarded annually to the winning team, however, went to the Victoria state team, which made second place, the rules governing the award specifically providing that only Australian teams may be its recipients.

Of the fifteen events in the Melbourne championships, the track classic of the antipodes, the Americans won five firsts, tied for one first, and took a second and a third. They broke three records of the state of Victoria.

PULLEN WINS AUTO RACE.

International Grand Prize Event Brings New Record—Oldfield Out.

Santa Monica, Cal., Mar. 2.—Edwin Pullen won the fifth international grand prize race over forty-eight laps, or 403 miles, on the Santa Monica course Saturday. A new record of 77.2 miles per hour was established. It was also the first time in the history of the event that an American car finished in first at the finish.

The winner gained his place by a serious accident which jeopardized the life of Driver J. B. Marquis when his car, the most dangerous foreign motor in the contest, turned turtle at a turn and crushed him. Marquis was taken to a hospital in a serious condition. Thereafter it was no race. Pullen was forty miles ahead of the second car at the finish and fifty-five miles ahead of the third.

Edwin De Palma, who won the Vanderbilt cup Thursday, was fourth and last because there was no fifth out of all the seventeen starters. Oldfield, his most persistent opponent the other day, was eliminated by a bad motor ten laps from the finish.

Pullen covered the 403 miles in 5 hours, 13 minutes, setting a new mark of 77.2 miles per hour against the record of 74.45 established by Cole's Buick at Savannah in 1911.

Bob Mohr, the Milwaukee middleweight, has caught on in great shape in New York, where he is a favorite with the boxing fans.

W. W. Curry is still preaching in Washington, D. C. although 30 years old.

DARING BASEBALL PLAY.

Three Stolen Bases and a Run on a Scranton Infield Hit.

"The greatest baseball play I ever saw," says a writer in the American Magazine, "occurred to a game between the Philadelphia Athletics and the Detroit Tigers in Shibe park, Philadelphia, June, 1912.

Ty Cobb, his first time up, hit a snaky grounder toward the first base. The ball had a deceptive bound and Studly Meekins had some trouble reaching for it and keeping hold of the ball when he got it. But he managed to scramble over and touch first just as Ty raced over the bag. Connie Mack's loyal rooters declared the "Georgia Peach" out by a mile, but the umpire had ideas of his own and Tyrus rested safely on the initial sack.

"The unexpected usually happens when this star swiftness is running bases, and on this occasion he did not disappoint his admirers. After the pitcher had thrown the ball Ty, having a fairly good head, decided to amble along down to second, figuring, no doubt, that Lapp, the Athletic catcher, would be taken off his guard and throw wild. To try for second after a catcher of Lapp's ability has the ball requires nerve of a high order. He is usually there with the perfect peg, but the sight of Cobb jogging along was too much for him and he heaved the ball into center field. Cobb saw Barry crunched in front of the base waiting as if to receive the ball, so, gathering speed, he made one of his bent-leg slides and landed behind the bag. Then seeing that the ball had come to center field, he started

for third base at top speed. Some one, I think it was Collins, made a beautiful throw to 'Home Run' Baker, who stabbed Cobb with the ball as that well known gentleman was in the act of sliding head first for the third haven of rest.

"The crowd groaned when the umpire motioned Cobb safe at third. While admiring his nifty exhibition the fans really wanted the dangerous fellow disposed of, and he had reached third by the closest kind of a margin.

"Ty stepped the dust from his toes and, as usual, ran several feet up the path toward home each time the pitcher started to wind up. The batter had now gathered two strikes, and with the next wind up Cobb raced for the plate at full speed, sliding with great force against Lapp, who was waiting for him with the ball. But the throw had been a little too high, and the catcher was taken off his feet before he could touch the daring base runner.

"Cobb therefore stole three bases after having reached first by a lucky scratch hit and made the first run of the game before the next batter up had hit the ball."

Anatole France on Journalism.

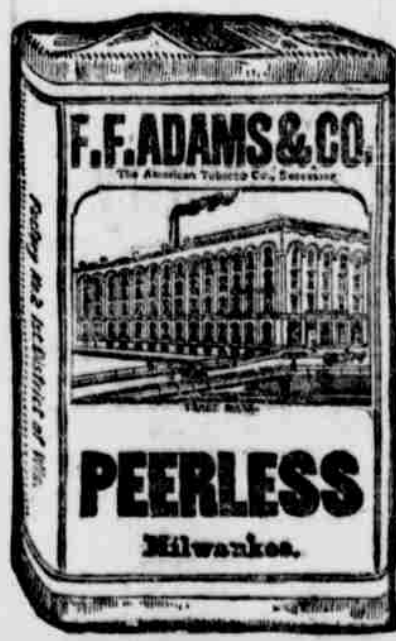
M. Anatole France, in reply to a toast of his health, said: "I have been a journalist and am one still. I owe to journalism some of the qualities that you have exaggerated. Journalism taught me a great part of the art of writing. The two things most useful in writing are ease and simplicity. Journalism teaches those things so well that the style even of great writers like Chateaubriand gained from journalistic experience."—London Times.

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Hitch up with PEERLESS for a week's trial, and you and PEERLESS will always pull together like a well-matched team. Nothing fancy about the PEERLESS package—we put all the cost into the tobacco. As you say of a horse, "he's all horse"—so we say of PEERLESS—"it's all tobacco."

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